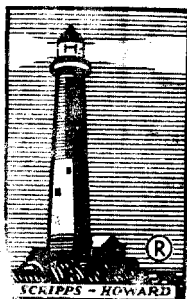


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The Washington Daily News

A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER

"Give light and the people will find their own way."

John T. O'Rourke, Editor

Ray F. Mark,

Business Manager

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1962

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The Cuban Prisoner Swap

AS a communist gone whole hog, Fidel Castro probably takes the standard Red-atheistic view of Christmas. But we doubt he has impressed his views on Cubans generally. The Cubans are predominately Catholic and therefore not likely to lose the memory of the traditional holiday spirit.

For that reason we can hope that the long-deferred Cuban prisoner swap will go thru by Christmas and the 1113 patriots held in Cuban jails will be released.

New York lawyer James B. Donovan

makes that prediction. He has been the leading figure in conducting the negotiations with the Castro government, and his efforts have been endorsed by President Kennedy. Mr. Donovan, in other words, has been assured his procedures will in no way be inconsistent with national policy.

The Red Cross is participating by collecting the medical supplies and baby food which will go to Cuba in exchange for the prisoners. In the end, success of the deal depends on Castro. Despite his record, he cannot be wholly oblivious to the season.